

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 SS-15 NSC-10

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R 090540 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3497

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2723

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, IV, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PARTICIPATION AT IPU MEETING IN ABIDJAN APRIL 23-28

REF: STATE 051038

I. FOLLOWING ARE MEMBERS OF THE LAO DELEGATION TO THE
IPU MEETING IN ABIDJAN:

A. CHAO (PRINCE) SOPSAISANA (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT/ HEAD OF DELEGATION

B. SERC VORAVONGSA;

C. SALAT RAJASAK;

D. SISOUPHAN PHOUNPRADITH;

E. XIENG CHANH PATHAMMANYO; AND

F. BOUAVAN NORASINGH.

THE FIRST FIVE ARE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, WHILE
BOUAVAN IS AN ASSEMBLY- ELECTED MEMBER OF THE KING' S COUNCIL.

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2. SOPSAISANA IS WELL- KNOWN LAO PERSONALITY. HE ATTENDED LAST YEAR' S IPU MEETINGS IN ROME AND YAOUNDE; HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN IPU AFFAIRS; AND, BY VIRTUE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AND POSITION, WILL PROBABLY DOMINATE LAO DELEGATION' S ACTIONS. DEPARTMENT ALSO HAS EXTENSIVE BIO DATA ON SERC, SISOUPHAN AND BOUAVAN -- WHICH FOLLOWING NOTES MERELY HIGHLIGHT:

A. SERC VORAVONGSA, DEPUTY FROM KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE (CENTRAL LAOS), WAS FIRST ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1965. HE IS MEMBER OF BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ASSEMBLY' S IPU COMMITTEE.

B. SISOUPHAN PHOUNPRADITH, DEPUTY FROM HOUA KHONG (NORTHWEST LAOS) 1955-65 AND FROM PHONG SALY (FAR NORTH) SINCE 1966, HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN IPU AFFAIRS. IN 1970 , HE WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF LAO IPU DELEGATION AND IN 1971 HE ATTENDED IPU MEETING IN CARACAS. SISOUPHAN WAS A MEMBER OF RLG DELEGATION IN LAO INTERNAL TALKS, WHICH CULMINATED IN CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT FEBRUARY 1973.

C. BOUAVAN NORASINGH, AGE 43, WAS ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY TO KING' S COUNCIL LAST FALL. HE HAS LAW DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY AND WAS A DELEGATE TO 1964 IPU MEETING IN BERN.

3. LT. COL. SALAT RAJASAK, FIRST- TERM DEPUTY FROM SARAVANE (SOUTHEAST LAOS), HAD BEEN A POLICE OFFICER FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION IN JANUARY 1972. HE IS A MEMBER OF LAWS AND POLITICS AND OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.

4. XIENG CHANH PATHAMMANYO, DEPUTY FROM PHONG SALY, IS A FORMER LEADER OF A NORTH LAOS ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP. HE HAS RATHER UNSAVORY REPUTATION AND IS A PERSON OF MEDEST ATTAINMENTS. HE IS UNLIKELY TO BECOME DEEPLY INVOLVED
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IN BUSINESS OF IPU OR TO HAVE MUCH CONTACT WITH U. S.

DELEGATION. HE APPARENTLY SPEAKS NO ENGLISH OR FRENCH.
HE IS A MEMBER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE.

5. SINCE LAO TEND TO BE SOMEWHAT ISOLATED FROM GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS, DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THOSE IMMEDIATELY RELATED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL PROBABLY BE FAIRLY GENERAL. USDEL MAY, HOWEVER, WISH NOTE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WHICH RLG AND PATHET LAO SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 1973; EXPRESS SATISFACTION AT SUBSEQUENT SHARP DROP IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS AND ELICIT VIEWS OF LAO ON RESOLUTION OF REMAINING POLITICAL QUESTIONS, NOTABLE FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT.

8. IN THIS CONNECTION, OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, REPORTED THAT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FROM SOUTH VIETNAM VISITED VIENTIANE EARLIER IN WEEK TO STUDY WITH THE LAO NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP THE POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING PREPARATIONS FROM THE ABIDJAN IPU MEETING. ACCORDING TO LAO PRESSE, DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY LAO DELEGATION AT YAOUNDE AND ROME REGARDING SEARCH FOR SECURITY AND RESTORATION OF DURABLE PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AT ROME, IPU APPARENTLY VOTED TO PLACE THIS SUBJECT ON AGENDA FOR ABIDJAN.
DEAN

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